

REGULAR MEETING – MANSFIELD TOWN COUNCIL  
February 8, 2010

Deputy Mayor Gregory Haddad called the regular meeting of the Mansfield Town Council to order at 7:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Audrey P. Beck Building.

I. ROLL CALL

Present: Haddad, Keane, Kochenburger, Lindsey, Moran, Paulhus, Ryan, Schaefer  
Excused: Paterson

Deputy Mayor Haddad announced that the evening's meeting, for the first time in Mansfield's history, is being televised live.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Kochenburger moved and Mr. Schaefer seconded to approve the minutes of the January 25, 2010 meeting as amended. The motion passed unanimously.

Council members noted that a number of items recorded in the minutes as agenda items for the subsequent meeting are not on the evening's agenda.

Mr. Ryan moved and Ms. Keane seconded to add a discussion of senior services to the agenda as Item 3a. The motion passed unanimously.

III. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL

Howard Raphaelson, Timber Drive, spoke about the issue of recruiting and urged the Town to take all efforts necessary to make sure the correct person is hired.

Sharry Goldman, Browns Road, provided a written statement regarding her extemporaneous comments at the January 25, 2010 meeting and commented on the subject of volunteer drivers for seniors. (Statement attached)

Mike Sikoski, Wildwood Road, requested the purchase price of the Potter property.

Jane Blanshard, Sycamore Drive, underscored that the demographics of the Town is increasingly that of an aging population and affordable and accessible senior transportation is important.

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Joan Hall, Birchwood Heights Road, spoke in favor of the Ordinance Regarding Off Street Parking on Residential Rental Properties commenting that she has a 4 bedroom house for rent that she will only rent to 3 people in order to maintain the character of the neighborhood.

Cynara Stites, Hanks Hill Road, spoke in favor of political signs on public property in two specific instances. (Statement attached)

Steve Bacon, Wormwood Hill Road and member of the Downtown Partnership, urged the Council to approve the grant for the upgrade to the Storrs Road sewer lines noting the impact it will have on the Storrs Center project.

Ric Hossack, Middle Turnpike, commented on the applications for the STEAP grants. (Statement attached)

Gene Nesbitt, Wormwood Hill Road and Chair of the Four Corners Sewer and Water Advisory Committee, spoke to the need for infrastructure in the Four Corners area and urged support for the grant proposals. (Statement attached)

Peter Plante, Oak Drive and PZC representative to the Four Corners Sewer and Water Advisory Committee, commented there are two important reasons to support the grant funding for the Four Corners projects, economic development and environmental remediation.

#### IV. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

Report attached

Town Manager Matt Hart updated the Council on the options being discussed regarding the name and location of the probate court. The CEO's of all the affected towns and the affected Probate Judges have been meeting to discuss the options.

#### V. OLD BUSINESS

##### 1. Community/Campus Relations

The Town Manager reported the Town University Relations Committee will be meeting February 9<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 p.m. at which time Spring Weekend, the proposed USDA facility and the dredging of Mirror Lake will be discussed. The Mansfield Community Campus Partnership will be meeting on February 11<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 p.m.

The Community Quality of Life Committee met and discussed the proposed Off Street Parking on Residential Rental Property Ordinance. Ms. Keane and Ms. Moran, members of the Committee, remarked the meeting was well attended and raised a number of questions regarding the implications and consequences of the proposed ordinance.

## 2. Community Water and Wastewater Issues

The Town Manager and Councilors Schaefer and Paulhus, both of whom are members of Four Corners Sewer and Water Advisory Committee, reported on a presentation that provided an overview of the regulatory process for three potential water supply sources. The potential water supplies under consideration are an existing water company, a local well or an additional well field in the Willimantic River.

Deputy Mayor Haddad requested a report for the next meeting summarizing the permitting process for an additional Willimantic well field and the transporting of water from an existing water company along Route 195. The materials presented at the Advisory Committee meeting will be included in the next Town Council packet.

## 3. Committee Appointments

Ms. Keane moved and Mr. Kochenburger seconded to appoint Council member Paulhus to the Four Corners Sewer and Water Advisory Committee. Motion passed with all in favor except Mr. Paulhus who abstained.

Ms. Keane moved and Mr. Paulhus seconded to appoint Councilors Lindsey and Ryan to the Transportation Advisory Committee. The motion passed with all in favor except Ms. Lindsey and Mr. Ryan who abstained.

Ms. Keane moved and Ms. Lindsey seconded to appoint Council member Paulhus to the Town University Relations Committee. The motion passed with all in favor except Mr. Paulhus who abstained.

Mr. Paulhus moved and Mr. Ryan seconded to appoint Council member Keane to the Public Safety Committee. The motion passed with all in favor except Ms. Keane who abstained.

## 3a. Senior Center Issues

Members discussed whether or not the possible move of members of the Human Service Department to the Senior Center would preclude the use of that space for a wellness center, questioned how additional services at the wellness center could be funded, and requested an update on the hiring process for both a social worker and a senior center coordinator.

The Town Manager reported on his recent meeting with the Commission on Aging at which time a number of these issues were discussed as was the possibility of a community conversation on senior services held jointly with the Senior Center Association. He will be meeting with the Senior Center Association later this week. The relocation of members of the Human Services Department to the Senior Center is currently not feasible. The Town Manager updated the Council on the status of the hiring process and commented that all applicants will be fully vetted by both their peers and interested stakeholders.

## VI. NEW BUSINESS

### 4. Federal Appropriations

#### a. Systems Control Equipment – Storrs Center

Mr. Paulhus moved and Mr. Schaefer seconded effective February 8, 2010, to authorize the Town Manager to submit an appropriations request for systems control equipment for parking associated with Storrs Center in the name and on behalf of the Town of Mansfield to Congressman Joe Courtney.

Council members discussed the appropriateness of the proposal given that the Parking Steering Committee has not made decisions regarding the equipment needs for the parking areas, the importance of applying for grants in anticipation that there will be parking equipment needed for the project, the source of the required matching funds should the grant be awarded and the fact that the Council will need to vote to accept the grant if awarded.

The motion passed with all in favor except Ms. Keane and Ms. Lindsey who voted in opposition.

#### b. Storrs Road Water and Sewer Line

Mr. Schaefer moved and Mr. Paulhus seconded, effective February 8, 2010, to authorize the Town Manager to submit an appropriations request for upgrade of the Storrs Road (Route 195) sewer line in the name and on behalf of the Town of Mansfield to Congressman Joe Courtney.

Director of Public Works Lon Hultgren reported the existing sewer lines which serve the Storrs Center area are in need of replacement and although UConn is the responsible party if the Town could secure some grant funding it would be helpful.

The motion passed with all in favor.

c. Four Corners Sewer and Water Projects

Mr. Paulhus moved and Mr. Schaefer seconded, effective February 8, 2010, to authorize the Town Manager to submit to Joe Courtney in the name and on behalf of the Town of Mansfield the appropriation requests for the Four Corners water and sewer projects.

Motion passed with all in favor.

Mr. Schaefer moved and Ms. Lindsey seconded to prioritize the grant applications as follows: Four Corners Sewer and Water Projects, Systems Control Equipment and Storrs Road Water and Sewer Line.

After additional discussion Mr. Schaefer moved to divide the question with a vote on establishing the Four Corners Sewer project as the first priority and the Four Corners Sewer and Water project as the second priority.

Seconded by Ms. Keane the motion passed with all in favor except Deputy Mayor Haddad who was in opposition.

Mr. Schaefer moved to establish the Systems Control Equipment as the third priority and the Storrs Road Water and Sewer Line as the fourth priority.

Seconded by Ms. Moran the motion passed unanimously.

Downtown Partnership Inc. Executive Director Cynthia van Zelm will communicate the Council's prioritization list to the Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development.

5. FY 2010/11 Budget Review Calendar

Mr. Ryan Chair of the Finance Committee announced a change to the calendar. The Thursday April 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting will be moved to Wednesday the 21<sup>st</sup>. Changes may be made to the schedule as needed and the Town Manager will be available to update Council members who cannot attend all the meetings.

6. Establishment of Ordinance Development and Review Subcommittee

Ms. Moran moved and Ms. Keane seconded the following resolution:

Resolved, effective February 8, 2010, to establish as an ad hoc committee of the Town Council an Ordinance Development and Review Committee responsible for the development and review of town ordinances. Said ad hoc committee shall be appointed by the Council as a whole and comprised of a minimum of three council members. Any interested council member may participate in the committee's deliberation in an ex officio capacity.

Members discussed the flaws in the current system of ordinance introduction and expressed the need for a system that gives the Council input and ownership prior to the public hearing.

Ms. Moran proposed the resolution be changed to read as follows:

Resolved, effective February 8, 2010, to establish as an ad hoc committee of the Town Council an Ordinance Development and Review Committee responsible for the development and review of those proposed town ordinances which are not already within the purview of an existing standing committee. Said ad hoc committee shall be appointed by the Council as a whole and comprised of a minimum of three council members. Any interested council member may participate in the committee's deliberation in an ex officio capacity.

Accepted as a friendly amendment the motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Moran moved and Mr. Paulhus seconded to refer the draft Off-Street Parking on Residential Rental Property Ordinance to the new Ordinance Development and Review Committee for its review and recommendation. The members of the committee to review the draft Off-Street Parking on Residential Rental Property Ordinance shall be Peter Kochenburger (Chair), Denise Keane and Toni Moran.

Motion passed unanimously.

#### VII. DEPARTMENTAL AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

Ms. Lindsey requested members be provided a copy of the Mansfield Board of Education's Goals and Objectives.

#### VIII. REPORTS OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES

Mr. Ryan, Chair of the Finance Committee, reported the Committee reviewed the introduction to the budget to be presented at the meeting on February 9<sup>th</sup>.

Ms. Moran, Chair of the Committee on Committees announced the Committee will be meeting on Tuesday February 16<sup>th</sup> and is looking for a candidate for the Four Corners Sewer and Water Advisory Committee with expertise in water issues.

Deputy Mayor Haddad, Chair of the Personnel Committee, reported the Committee would be meeting soon to discuss the Town Council Rules of Procedure.

#### IX. REPORTS OF COUNCIL MEMBERS

Councilors Paulhus, Moran and Lindsey attended the League of Women Voter Legislative breakfast.

Councilors Moran and Lindsey participated in the field trip to Glastonbury to look at a large elementary school.

#### X. PETITIONS, REQUEST AND COMMUNICATIONS

7. C. Newcombe re: Proposed housing code changes
8. G. Padick re: Political signage and Town property

9. G. Padick re: Proposed Inland Wetlands Regulation revisions – Mr. Kochenburger requested members receive a copy of the draft Inland Wetland Regulation revisions which shows the proposed changes.
10. M. Capriola re: Bergin C.I. Community Notification System
11. State of Connecticut Department of Public Safety re: Federal grant funding
12. State of Connecticut Judicial Branch re: Court and library closings
13. M. Jodi Rell State of the State Speech
14. M. Jodi Rell – Official Statement re: Dating Violence Awareness Month
15. CCM Legislative Update
16. Windham Special Olympics Invitational Swim Meet Opening Ceremonies
17. Winter Fun Day
18. Town Council Meeting Minutes (excerpt), 11-19-1973
19. Chronicle “Public hearings begin on combining schools” – 1-21-10
20. Chronicle “Hearing tonight on parking rules” – 1/25/10
21. Chronicle “Parking rules draw ire, but no vote” – 1/26/10
22. Chronicle “Gym hearing resumes Monday” – 1/29/10
23. Chronicle “Mansfield ed board eyes slight decrease in budget” – 1/29/10
24. Chronicle “Cardio Express hearing continued once again” – 2-2-10
25. Mansfield Today “Learn more about the proposed consolidated...” – 1-25-10
26. Mansfield Today “Student leader accuses town of conspiring to...” – 1-26-10

#### XI. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL

Ric Hossack, Middle Turnpike, asked the Council to adhere to the Charter and stated the Committee on Committees should strictly adhere to the term limit wording in the Charter.

Betty Wassmundt, Old Turnpike Road, expressed her concern with the ad hoc Ordinance Development and Review Subcommittee, commented that the unionization of the custodians at the Community Center is another way to hide expenses and expressed her displeasure with the workings of the Capital Non-Recurring Fund.

Mike Sikoski, Wildwood Road, expressed his hope that the Ordinance Development and Review Subcommittee will provide an opportunity for public comment at their meetings.

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Mr. Paulhus left the meeting at 10:30 p.m.

## XII. FUTURE AGENDAS

Ms. Moran requested the issue of political signs be added to a future agenda,

Mr. Schaefer would like to discuss tax exempt farm buildings and Ms. Keane requested the Council's Rules of Procedure be added to an agenda in the near future.

Ms. Lindsey asked that a report from staff regarding the impact of a large elementary school on Rte 89 traffic and possible water and sewer concerns at Southeast School be provided to the Council.

Mr. Ryan requested a report on the senior issues of wellness, hiring and transportation be added to an agenda in the future.

Mr. Ryan moved and Ms. Moran second to recess the meeting and move into Executive Session.

Motion passed by all.

## XIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Pending claims and litigation, in accordance with Connecticut General Statutes §1-200(6) (b)

a. Settlement Agreement with Windham

Present: Haddad, Keane, Kochenburger, Lindsey, Moran, Ryan, Schaefer

Also included: Town Manager Matt Hart, Director of Public Works Lon Hultgren

b. FOI cases (FIC Docket #2009-690, #2009-627, and #2009-656)

Present: Haddad, Keane, Kochenburger, Lindsey, Moran, Ryan, Schaefer

Also included: Town Manager Matt Hart, Town Clerk Mary Stanton

Continued review and discussion of commercial and financial information provided in confidence by Storrs Center Alliance, in accordance with CGS§§ 1-200(6) (E), 1- 210(b) (5) (B)

Present: Haddad, Keane, Kochenburger, Lindsey, Moran, Ryan, Schaefer

Also included: Town Manager Matt Hart

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

The Town Council reconvened in regular session.

A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Kochenburger and seconded by Mr. Schaefer.

Motion passed unanimously

Gregory Haddad, Deputy Mayor

Mary Stanton, Town Clerk

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